

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A digital information appliance-implemented method for performing a transaction in a network environment, comprising:

requesting content over a network connection, the request being made utilizing a request object that comprises a request dynamic base object which includes a request interface dynamic base object and a request implementation dynamic base object;

receiving the content on a first digital information appliance, said content ~~including~~ being in conjunction with an encapsulated transaction object;

monitoring usage of the content;

identifying a utilization event of the monitored usage; and

storing an occurrence of the utilization event in the transaction object;

wherein the content and transaction information are encapsulated in the transaction object;

wherein the transaction object is capable of transmitting data related to the stored occurrence of the utilization event over a network via a direct, object-to-object communications protocol; and

wherein the request is made to the request interface dynamic base object, the request interface dynamic base object passing the request to a request implementation dynamic base object, the request implementation dynamic base object capable of negotiating among a plurality of content objects a desired content object based upon a user-defined criterion that includes at

least one of cost, pricing structure and compatibility of the content object with the digital information appliance.

2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim 5 1, wherein ~~the user-defined criterion includes at least one of cost, pricing structure and compatibility of the content object with the digital information appliance and~~ the plurality of content objects reside on a plurality of digital information appliances, the plurality of digital information appliances accessible to the first digital information appliance over the network.

7. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the network connection is not available, saving the occurrence of the utilization event until the network connection is available, at which time data related to the stored occurrence of the utilization event is transmitted.

8. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the transaction object includes a first occurrence of the transaction object including a transaction interface dynamic base object and a second occurrence of the transaction object including a transaction implementation dynamic base object.

9. (Original) The method as described in claim 8, wherein the transaction implementation dynamic base object is capable of supporting a plurality of payment algorithms, the payment

algorithms capable of being modified without modifying the transaction interface dynamic base object.

10. (Original) The method as described in claim 8, wherein the first occurrence of the transaction object transmits data related to the stored occurrence of the utilization event to the second occurrence of the transaction object, the second occurrence of the transaction object residing on a second digital information appliance.

11. (Original) The method as described in claim 10, wherein the second digital information appliance is a central transaction authenticator, the central transaction authenticator capable of storing and updating user account information.

12. (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the content is provided by at least one of media and network connection.

13. (Currently Amended) A digital information appliance system for performing a transaction in a network environment, comprising:

a processor for executing a program of instructions on a digital information appliance;

a network connection device coupled to the processor for connecting the digital information appliance to a network; and

a memory coupled to the processor for storing the program of instructions, wherein the program of instructions configures the digital information appliance to:

request content over the network, the request being made utilizing a request object that comprises a request dynamic base object which includes a request interface dynamic base object and a request implementation dynamic base object;

receive content on the digital information appliance, said content ~~including~~ being in conjunction with an encapsulated transaction object;

monitor usage of the content;

identify a utilization event of the monitored usage; and

store an occurrence of the utilization event in the transaction object;

wherein the content and transaction information are encapsulated in the transaction object;

wherein the transaction object is capable of transmitting data related to the stored occurrence of the utilization event over a network via a direct, object-to-object communications protocol; and

wherein the request is made to the request interface dynamic base object, the request interface dynamic base object passing the request to a request implementation dynamic base object, the request implementation dynamic base object capable of negotiating among a plurality of content objects a desired content object based upon a user-defined criterion that includes at least one of cost, pricing structure and compatibility of the content object with the digital information appliance.

14-17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) The digital information appliance system as described in claim ~~17~~ 13, wherein ~~the user defined criterion includes at least one of cost, pricing structure and compatibility of the content object with the digital information appliance and~~ the plurality of content objects reside on a plurality of digital information appliances, the plurality of digital information appliances accessible to the first digital information appliance over the network.

19. (Original) The digital information appliance system as described in claim 13, wherein the network connection is not available, saving the occurrence of the utilization event until the network connection is available, at which time data related to the stored occurrence of the utilization event is transmitted.

20. (Original) The digital information appliance system as described in claim 13, wherein the transaction object includes a first occurrence of the transaction object including a transaction interface dynamic base object and a second occurrence of the transaction object including a transaction implementation dynamic base object.

21. (Original) The digital information appliance system as described in claim 20, wherein the transaction implementation dynamic base object is capable of supporting a plurality of payment algorithms, the payment algorithms capable of being modified without modifying the transaction interface dynamic base object.

22. (Original) The digital information appliance system as described in claim 20, wherein the first occurrence of the transaction object transmits data related to the stored occurrence of the

utilization event to the second occurrence of the transaction object, the second occurrence of the transaction object residing on a second digital information appliance.

23. (Original) The digital information appliance system as described in claim 22, wherein the second digital information appliance is a central transaction authenticator, the central transaction authenticator capable of storing and updating user account information.

24. (Original) The digital information appliance system as described in claim 13, wherein the content is provided by at least one of media and network connection.

25-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the transaction information includes billing information and security information.

41. (Previously Presented) The digital information appliance system as described in claim 13, wherein the transaction information includes billing information and security information.

42. (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the transaction object received at the first digital information appliance in conjunction with said content is capable of transmitting said data related to the stored occurrence of the utilization event over the network via the direct, object-to-object communications protocol.

43. (Previously Presented) The digital information appliance system as described in claim 13, wherein the transaction object received at the digital information appliance in conjunction with said content is capable of transmitting said data related to the stored occurrence of the utilization event over a network via the direct, object-to-object communications protocol.